Bilateral Talks on Textiles between India and USA

*608. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bilateral talks in the area of textiles between India and USA were stalled a few weeks ago;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to resume negotiations;

(d) what are the factors responsible for resumption of the talks; and

(e) by when handlook exports from India to USA are likely to commence again and whether Government propose to allow entry of high value textile imports from the United States to our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) Towards the closing phase of the Uruguay Round negotiations in Geneva in the middle of December 1993, there was an understanding that market access negotiations relating to the textile sector would continue even after the negotiations at the official level came to an end on 15 December, 1993. Keeping in view this understanding India and the United States of America negotiated in Geneva 21-27 March 1994, with a view to resolving the market access issue in a mutually acceptable manner taking into account the desire of both the sides for enhanced market access. However, these negotiations did not result in any agreement. The negotiations between the two countries would be resumed shortly at the official level with a view fo finding a mutually acceptable arrangement.

(e) There had been no cessation of exports of handloom items from India to the USA. The request of the USA to India to permit import of high value textile items would be discussed during the ensuing official level negotiations.

आतिथ्य संबंधी व्यय

*609. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या **संचार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संचार मंत्रालय के आतिथ्य संबंधी व्यय में गत वर्ष की तुलना में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान आतिथ्य पर प्रति वर्ष कितना व्यय किया गया था; और

(घ) आतिथ्य संबंधी व्यय में कमी करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये गये है?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान आतिथ्य सत्कार संबंधी व्यय की राशि इस प्रकार है:—

(लाख रु० में)

वर्ष	संचार मंत्रालय
1990-91	5.10
1991-92	4.30
1992-93	9.81
1993-94 (2/94 तक)	4.35

(घ) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) और (ख) को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Mid-term Encashment of NSC's and Kisan Vikas Patras

*610. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale proceeds of the National Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patras are shared by the Union and State Governments and invested in the developmental plans;

(b) whether there is no mid-term encashment of National Savings Certificates

in the Post Offices, whereas the Kisan Vikas Patras and encashed mid way in the Post Offices;

(c) whether Indira Vikas Patras are also not encashed in the mid-term by the Post Offices;

(d) whether the mid-term encashment of Kisan Vikas Patras entail payment of commission to agents twice and also cause the problem of liquidity; and

(e) whether Government would consider to bring at par the National Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patras, either by stopping mid-term encashment or by allowing mid-term encashment of both the Vikas Patras, as both are identical in characteristics, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Three-fourth of net collections under small savings schemes, including National Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patras, in a State is advanced as long-term loan to that State for financing the State Plan.

(b) Mid-term encashment is not allowed at the option of the investor in the case of National Savings Certificates VIII issue, whereas an investor may encash Kisan Vikas Patras after two and half years from the date of purchase.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Payment of commission is made only once at the time of investment. As regards liquidity, the premature encashment facility is a basic feature of Kisan Vikas Patra. This provides an investor with an instrument having a flexible maturity period.

(e) No, Sir. National Savings Certificates VIII Issue, Kisan Vikas Patras and Indira Vikas Patras are not identical and the quetion of bringing these instruments at par does not, therefore, arise.

Complaints against MTNL

*611. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints have been received by the Department from the registered users of telephones, during the last two years;

(b) what is the nature of such complaints;

(c) what are the reasons for increased difficulties faced by the users in installation of telephones, their smooth operation, payments of bills, etc; and

(d) how Government propose to uproot deep routed corruption in the M.T.N.L.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Details of the complaints received from the users of telephones during the last two years are given in the statement 'A' and 'B' respectively. The nature of complaints can be classified as under:

(a) service complaints
(b) excess billing and
(c) complaints regarding provisioning of telephones

(c) The overall performance of MTNL, Bombay and Delhi in respect of customer services during 1993-94 has more or less remained the same as it was during 1992-93. There has been a slight increase in the number of complaints per 100 telephones per month mainly because of increased installation activity, higher incidence of rains and cable thefts during 1993-94. In respect of excess billing complaints, however, there has been a definite improvement (0.29% in 1993-94 as compared to 0.38% in Delhi and 0.44% in Bombay during 1992-93).

The service rendered is quite satisfactory. This fact has been acknowledged by our customers contacted by Indian marketing Research Bureau during appraisal of quality of telephone service.